THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes Sir, Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b) Government closely monitors and continuously assesses all developments with regard to Pakistan's nuclear and missile capabilities. Government remains fully committeed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

(c) and (d) India is committed to exercise strict civilian control over it nuclear assets. India has standard safety procedures and practices for the manufacture, transportation, storage and use of stores containing explosive substances and for the handling of the nuclear materials. The system of civilian control and technical management of nuclear assets is updated, as and when required, in the light of contemporary needs.

Eviction of Pak occupied Kashmir

1567. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made by Government to get back Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK);

(b) if so, the total Indian territory now under Pakistan occupation; and

(c) the details of the various efforts made by Government to get back POK?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The entire state of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. An area of approximately 78,000 sq kms. is under Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. Government are committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan through peaceful negotiations and direct bilateral dialogue.

Open skies agreement with USA

1568. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government is looking forward to negotiate the open skies agreement with India and to increase economic cooperation as